

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-11 are pending in the application. In the Final Office Action of August 28, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-6 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Kato* (JP 10-040395). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and address the Examiner's disposition below.

Applicants' independent claims 1, 6 and 11, each as amended, each claim generating, from a correspondence point identified on a curve in a first frame, a curve in a second frame. The curve in the first frame relates to an extracted feature in the first frame. A correspondence point in the second frame is determined corresponding to the correspondence point identified in the first frame. A curve in the second frame is generated passing through the correspondence point in the second frame, wherein the curve in the second frame represents an outline of the extracted feature in the second frame. A picture image pursuit of the correspondence point identified on the curve in the first frame is used to determine the correspondence point in the second frame by determining analoguousness between a first image portion including the correspondence point identified in the first frame and a second image portion including the correspondence point in the second frame by determining an absolute value sum of differences of respective pixel values within the first image portion and the second image portion. (See, specification, page 16, lines 3-18); Figure 7).

This is clearly unlike *Kato*, which fails to disclose or even suggest Applicants' claimed determination of an absolute sum of differences of pixels in first and second image portions to determine analoguousness between the first and second image portions. Instead, *Kato* discloses "the user indicates the proper number of characteristic points on the outline of the image of the object in the image in each reference frame, and makes them correspond to each other." (*Kato*, Abstract). Unlike Applicants' claims 1, 6 and 10, nowhere does *Kato* disclose or even suggest determining correspondence points in a second frame by determining an absolute sum of differences of pixels in first and second image portions to determine analoguousness between the first and second image portions. Therefore, *Kato* fails to disclose or even suggest claims 1, 6 and 10.

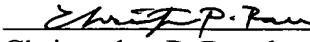
Claims 3-5 and 8-10 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 or 6 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 6 are allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

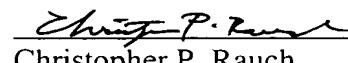
Claims 12 and 13 are newly added. In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1, 3-6 and 8-13 are patentable. It is therefore submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

 (Reg. No. 45,034)
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on November 25, 2003.

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